

Remarks

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14, 16-19, and 21-31 were rejected. Claims 9, 12, 13, 15, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise found to be allowable.

By this paper, claims 8, 10, 14, and 19 have been amended and claims 1-7, 9, 15, 20, and 24-31 have been canceled. New claims 32-42 have been added to provide claim coverage commensurate with the scope of the invention.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 9, which the Examiner found to be allowable.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 15, which the Examiner found to be allowable.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 20, which the Examiner found to be allowable, and to correct an antecedent basis problem.

New claim 32 is identical to original claim 12, which the Examiner found to be allowable, rewritten in independent form.

New claim 35 is identical to original claim 13, which the Examiner found to be allowable, rewritten in independent form.

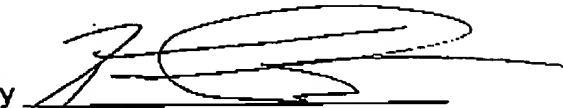
New claim 38 is a means-plus-function version of original claim 9, rewritten in independent form, which the Examiner found to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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